

Washington, DC – Today, Congressman Bruce Braley (IA-01) released the following statement on U.S. involvement in Afghanistan:

“I believe the time has come for us to begin an immediate withdrawal of our combat troops from Afghanistan – with the goal of having them home by the end of 2011. This isn’t a decision I came to lightly, but one that I have struggled with for some time. Our justifications for going into Afghanistan are no longer valid, and meanwhile, the costs – both human and financial – of continuing this war are just too high.

“Earlier this year, I had a chance to travel to Afghanistan and meet with General David Petraeus and U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan Karl Eikenberry to discuss our progress there. I spoke with commanders on the ground and met with some of our 2,800 Iowa National Guard troops who are currently stationed in Afghanistan. I’ve met with too many families who’ve lost a loved one or seen them come home with missing limbs and other serious injuries. I believe it’s time to get as many of our brave men and women in uniform home as quickly as possible.”